

COURSE SYLLABUS

Philosophy 102: Introduction to Philosophical
Inquiry
Online Philosophy Course
Department of History and Philosophy
College of Arts and Humanities
Lander University
Greenwood, SC 29649

Section OLA
Section OLB

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Fall, 2009

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1 Essential Information

Instructor: <i>Lee C. Archie</i>	Office Hours:
Office: <i>LC M33</i>	<i>MWF 08:30 am–09:00 am</i>
Learning Center Mezzanine	<i>MWF 10:20 am–11:20 am</i>
Telephone: <i>+1 864 388 8383</i>	<i>TR 08:30 am–09:30 am</i>
Email: <i>larchie@philosophy.lander.edu</i>	<i>TR 11:30 am–12:00 noon</i>
Instant Message: <i>philhelp@gmail.com</i>	Other times by Appointment

1.1 Supplementary Materials

Online Philosophy 102 Homepage:

<http://philosophy.lander.edu/intro/webCT.shtml>

My Online Calendar and Class Schedule:

<http://tiny.cc/archie659>

Online Philosophy 102 Syllabus:

<http://philosophy.lander.edu/intro/syllabusCT.html>

(General) Philosophy Homepage:

<http://philosophy.lander.edu/>

Campus Philosophy 102 Homepage:

<http://philosophy.lander.edu/intro/>

Philosophy Forum:

<http://philosophy.lander.edu/cgi-bin/mwf/forum.pl>

Online Philosophy 102 FAQ:

<http://philosophy.lander.edu/intro/ctfaq.html>

Online Grades:

<http://philosophy.lander.edu/~larchie/grades.cgi>

Additional Readings:

<http://philosophy.lander.edu/ethics/ethicsbook/book1.html>

How to Study:

<http://philosophy.lander.edu/study-topics.html>

Email Etiquette:

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/help/HA012054101033.aspx>

How to Cite the Internet: *Citation Styles Online!*

<http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/citex.html>

1.2 Is this Course for You?

Important: This online philosophy course is not for everyone. The course assumes that you are able to work independently and to schedule time daily for reading and study. Your Web course puts a substantial burden on you to take charge of your own learning. Before continuing with this course carefully consider if you are the kind of proactive student who can motivate yourself to take charge of your own study. You need to allocate a minimum of nine hours per week for this university course.

1.3 Appointments—Office Hours

I look forward to talking to each of you about our philosophy course. You are warmly encouraged to ask about tutorial lectures, readings, class requirements, ideas, or problems. For questions about course content and course procedures use the Philosophy Server's Philosophy Forum. You will need to register for this discussion board according to the instructions given in *Section* refsec:message-board Philosophy Forum below.

Personal questions should be sent to larchie@philosophy.lander.edu only. *Please do not use Blackboard email or my Lander Webmail address for email contact in this course.* (I do not use or check Blackboard email, and I like to keep student correspondence separate from the mass mailings and notices which fill Lander's Webmail.)

My daily schedule is online here:

<http://tiny.cc/archie659>

1.4 Email and Discussion Protocol

If you have a *personal* question, concern, or problem, email your instructor at the first opportunity. If you have questions about class procedures (class policies, homework problems, class requirements, grading, assignments, or other housekeeping matters), post online to the Discussion Board.

You may use either your Lander email address or your own personal email address. Whichever address you use, you will need to know how to attach a file to email in order to submit tests. All email must have a subject, indicate the class in which you are enrolled, and must be signed by the student. Please learn proper email etiquette as soon as possible. A good brief overview is given here:

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/help/HA012054101033.aspx>

Important! Be sure to delete all unnecessary messages in your email account used for this course. Most email services, including Lander student email, limit the storage of messages in each account. If an email account becomes full, all email addressed to that account “bounces” without notice that messages are being rejected. Often, in such cases, requests for help appear to be unanswered, when the email storage limit has been exceeded for that account.

1.5 General Education Core Requirements

Note especially: Although Philosophy 102 Introduction to Philosophy fulfills the General Education Core Curriculum Requirement for Humanities, this

course does *not* fulfill the requirement for Logical and Analytical Thought. If you are seeking to fulfill the Logical and Analytical Thought requirement by registering for a philosophy course, you need to enroll in Philosophy 103: Introduction to Logic.

1.6 General Education Competency

Primary: Acquire skill in communicating clearly.

Secondary: Acquire skill in communicating clearly. Evaluation by tests and written assignments.

2 Course Description

2.1 Catalog Course Description

“Introduction to the main problems of philosophy and its methods of inquiry, analysis, and criticism. Works of important philosophers are read. *Three semester hours.*” From the *Lander University Catalog 2006-2007*.

2.2 Textbook

Lee Archie and John G. Archie, *Reading for Philosophical Inquiry: An Open Source Reader*. Version 0.21, GFDL, 2004, pp. 415. Free for use or resale under terms of the GFDL license.

On the Web at

<http://philosophy.lander.edu/intro/introbook-links.html>
<http://philosophy.lander.edu/intro/introbook.pdf>
<http://philosophy.lander.edu/intro/introbook2.1/book1.html>

The first link above gives convenient access chapter-by-chapter in pdf, html, and mp3 sound files. The mp3 files may be played on an iPod™ or MP3 Player. Text files for conversion into Braille are available by request. Also, some hard copies of the textbook are on reserve at the Larry A. Jackson Library, if you prefer to read the traditional way. Some copies should be available through Inter-Library Loan if you are a distance education student.

The GFDL license makes this textbook freely available to anyone for any purpose for no charge. You may print it out for your own use or print it out to sell it so long as you inform the buyer where to access it online without charge.

2.3 Supplementary Readings

Lee Archie and John G. Archie, *Introduction to Ethical Studies: An Open Source Reader*. Version 0.11 GFDL, 2004, pp. 364. Free for any use or resale under terms of the GDFL license.

<http://philosophy.lander.edu/ethics/ethicsbook/book1.html>
<http://philosophy.lander.edu/ethics/ethicsbook.pdf>

Lee Archie and John G. Archie, *Readings in the History of Aesthetics: An Open Source Reader*, version 0.11, GFDL, 2006, pp. 475. Free for any use or resale under terms of the GDFL license.

<http://philosophy.lander.edu/intro/artbook.html/book1.htm>
<http://philosophy.lander.edu/intro/artbook.pdf>

Book notes and tutorials for the ethics supplementary readings are available at

<http://philosophy.lander.edu/ethics/notes-topics.html>

2.4 Purpose of the Course

The general purpose of this course is to introduce some of the main problems of philosophy such as those listed under *Section 2.5 Objectives of the Course*.

2.5 Objectives of the Course

The general aims of this introductory survey of philosophy are to examine questions such as the following.

1. What is philosophical thinking?
2. Are ethical principles relative?
3. Are all persons at heart egoistic?
4. What are some philosophical arguments for God's existence?
5. How can truth be established?
6. Are there causal determinants of choice?
7. Of what does reality consist?
8. Are ethical and artistic judgments subjective?
9. How does one go about to find purpose and meaning in life?
10. How is philosophy related to other disciplines?

2.6 Course Procedures

The methods used to obtain these ends are

1. to learn classic arguments which illustrate basic philosophical principles,
2. to read carefully and critically the text and several papers in philosophy,
3. to write analytically about topics in philosophy,
4. to study classic, influential, and abiding arguments concerning the structures of knowledge, belief, and value,
5. to test your understanding by means of special examinations, and
6. to question critically several interpretations of basic philosophical positions.

2.7 Specific Skills Achieved

Upon completion of this course, all students should be able to

1. explain the difference between *a priori* and *a posteriori* arguments,
2. to learn to identify arguments, to evaluate and counter them, and to construct good arguments,
3. to obtain the ability to relate arguments to one another and to appreciate persistent, sustained thought on a topic,
4. to obtain the ability to justify and defend personal views once they are clearly and completely stated and to develop a personal ideology,
5. to recognize how all aspects of living can be rationally and causally inter-related,
6. to recognize the difference between a factual question and a philosophic problem,
7. to understand how concepts can be systematically clarified through philosophical analysis,
8. to explain the general purpose of philosophy as a method of inquiry,
9. to identify the differences between faith and reason,
10. to list the major philosophy positions on free will,
11. to identify and explain some common fallacies which occur in philosophical argumentation, and
12. to apply usefully several methods of philosophical reasoning in everyday life and ordinary language.

In this course you will gain skill in asking interesting, productive, and insightful questions and will analyze philosophical essays to obtain facility in the clear, complete, and methodological statement of personal views. You will also learn effective methods of analysis and criticism in the evaluation of argumentative discourse.

2.8 Teaching Methods

We adopt specific techniques recommended by many educators, namely writing, discussion, review tests, and assigned study questions.

3 Course Requirements

3.1 Evaluation

Judgment about the progress of your work is based on the quality and depth of critical and constructive thinking exhibited on tests and posts on readings. Your writing and comments on tests and the Philosophy Forum should not consist merely of a statement of your opinions, your religious beliefs or your feelings about the issues. Instead, your comments should express reasons, grounds, or evidence for your agreement or disagreement with the philosophies you are studying.

Your course grade is determined by averaging the points you achieve from the following scores:

Test 1 : Philosophy and Meaning of Life (25%)

Test 2 : The Philosophy of Religion (25%)

Test 3 : Philosophical Ethics (25%)

Posts : Reading Posts on Discussion Board (25%)

On the Philosophy Discussion Board a *minimum* of two critical comments per week are posted *on the readings*, where specific “weeks” are specified in the online class schedule. The grade for reading posts is established by the average of three grades assigned from the three periods of the course corresponding to the three online tests. That is, a grade is given for messages posted before Test 1, another for messages posted after Test 1 but before Test 2, and a third grade for messages posted after Test 2 but before Test 3. These three grades then are averaged and count for 25% of your course grade.)

Your final course grade is assigned according to your final average.

Your semester average is determined by adding the three take-home tests and the average grade of the weekly posts and dividing by four. Your grade for the

course is based upon this average in accordance with the corresponding letter grade in the table given in 3.5 *Assignment of Grades* in this *Syllabus*.

3.2 Suggestions about Grades

Judgment about the progress of your work is based on the above four scores. The course is essentially performance based and consists of a progressive series of concepts to be learned and mastered. *For this reason, few students can do well in this course by “cramming” just before exams.* I cannot emphasize this point too much. Study some daily.

Normally, the course is not difficult if you study regularly, keep up with the reading and homework daily, and do not attempt to learn a large amount of information at one time. Understanding philosophy cannot be hurried; only by spending some time and patience does philosophy finally prove accessible. Please check with former students about the importance of regular study.

As illustration of the rather obvious differences among various essay questions composed by students with previous reading and thought as opposed to questions composed by students who were “cramming,” see the section entitled “What counts as a good essay answer on tests?...” in the *Philosophy 102: Online FAQ* here:

<http://philosophy.lander.edu/intro/faqCT.html#fifteen>

Please keep in mind the following points:

1. *If you use quotations from the Internet or from books, you must use a proper citation method: e.g., MLA, APA, or Chicago Style, or full credit cannot be given for the question. If you need help on how to cite references, post a request to the Philosophy Forum. A quick good source for Internet citation styles is *Citation Styles Online!*, a useful source for links to cite Internet, email, message boards, news groups, chat, Telnet, FTP, and gopher sites in various citation styles including MLA, APA, Chicago, CBE, ACW, and Yahoo. See:*

<http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/citex.html>

2. *Quotations from the online notes, tutorials, and Wikipedia are discouraged. By all means, consult these valuable sources to help you get oriented and comfortable with the subjects (and also those listed at the bottom of the online philosophy homepage), but your writing must reflect your understanding and analysis of the material by your own explanation.*
3. *Quotations from the textbook readings with your explanations, analyses, or interpretations or the points of view expressed are welcomed. Occasionally,*

the analysis of a philosopher's literal text is necessary to understand the work.

4. *On essay questions, answer in considerable detail—usually about four hundred to four hundred fifty words per answer in length.* Clarify your understanding of the question carefully, as if you were explaining the ideas slowly and carefully to a younger brother or sister.
5. *Essay questions on tests and comments on the Philosophy Forum must give supporting reasons for views stated and your own clarification of important concepts used.* If a question asks for your own analysis, then feelings, religious beliefs, and political views should be totally avoided unless you give good logical reasons, verifiable empirical evidence, or insightful examples supporting your views.
6. *Lists, diagrams, and tables must be explained.* Use complete sentences, good spelling, and correct grammar on tests. Use spell checkers and grammar checkers provided by most word processing programs. If you use OpenOffice® you might install and try the program LanguageTool available here as an extension or a standalone program:

<http://www.danielnaber.de/language-tool/languages.html>

You can define additional grammar rules to check for with this program, but it is nowhere near as useful as Microsoft's® grammar checker in MS Word™.

3.3 Tests!Description

Description of Tests: Tests in this course are “take-home,” “open book,” and “open notes” and are handed in by submitting `doc`, `rtf`, or `txt` attachments by email to your instructor. The tests are usually true-false, paragraph-answer, and essay-answer in form. The subject-matter is primarily based on the reading and homework assignments, especially the questions at the beginning of the readings. *If you understand the questions at the beginning of the readings, you will do well on tests.* If you have difficulty with these questions, then feel free to post your queries and your best analysis to the Philosophy Forum as your “weekly reading post” in order to obtain other insights from the rest of the class and from me. Test answers can be “tried out” in advance on the Discussion Board.

All grades during the semester will be posted on the Philosophy Server. Mid-term grades will be posted on Blackboard. Students should realize that the mid-term grade is only used to indicate their approximate progress at the point

in time that the grade is issued and the mid-term grade is not a factor in computation of the student's final grade.

Independent Work on Tests: *Important! It is imperative that tests or parts of tests are not copies or paraphrases of notes or tutorials taken from the Web. All writing is to be the student's own work.*

Many persons believe that it is sufficient to briefly paraphrase the online notes and related Internet sources immediately prior to the due date of the tests. Surprisingly, the lack of understanding of what is read and written in such cases is evident from inadvertent inconsistencies, vague language, a rush to meet a deadline, and poor or inappropriate examples thought up "on the fly." The reason the tests are given "open-book" is so that the student has time to reflect and think about the questions asked. Thus, answering questions should be similar to writing a paper where you reconstruct the philosophies in terms of your own thought and words.

The tests are neither based on memorized facts nor based on objective information derived from memorized arguments. Instead, the emphasis given in tests is on the operation and active transformation or manipulation of the concepts learned. "Operation and active transformation or manipulation of the concepts learned" implies writing in your own words.

On paragraph and essay questions, be sure to answer with complete sentences; answers provided as lists of phrases or the names of concepts, alone, do not reflect an understanding of the subject and will be given little, if any, credit. Example tests with answers and lecture notes for previous non-Blackboard classes are online at <http://philosophy.lander.edu/intro/>. Test Review Worksheets are provided in the *Appendix* to this syllabus and form a good basis for studying for tests as you study for the weekly readings.

Even though tests are written with open books and open notes, because of the nature of philosophical inquiry, consistent study and understanding is essential to write with insight and understanding.

Point Deductions on Tests: Points are deducted from tests for *each* of the following:

1. Test sent to a different email address than that stated under Section 1 *Essential Information* above. (2 points)
2. Test written in the body of the email and not sent as attachment to the email. Such tests must be resubmitted in proper form for credit. (5 points)
3. Test not in a `doc`, `rtf`, or `txt` file type (`doc` files are preferred): See Section 3.7 *How to Save with a .doc Extension* below. (2 points) Test must be

resubmitted in proper form for credit.

4. Test mailed late (5 points for each 12 hour period).
5. Email etiquette not used by the end of the course. (5 points off last test)
6. For each reminder to write full name on the Profile Page. (See *Section 3.13 Profile Page* below. (2 points)

3.4 Reading Posts and Comments

1. **Subject of Posts:** For full credit, be sure the subject of the post reflects the content of your post and as precisely as possible. In this manner, specific posts can be much more easily located. Subject titles such as “Test,” “Post,” “Question,” “Chapter 3,” “Comment,” “Week 2,” “Question,” or “Grades” are much too imprecise. Construct a topic which accurately portrays the content of the message such as “Russell’s enlargement of self,” “Problem of the Soul in Socrates,” or “Difference between hard/soft determinism.” Choosing a title is difficult since limits the number of letters in a title.

Rather than just naming the subject as very general category such as the name of a chapter or the name of a philosopher, please take a moment to state the subject more specifically as shown in the examples above. I realize precise subjects are difficult to compose because of the text-length limitation of the Philosophy Forum Program.

2. **Comments:** The comment should give reasons supporting the point of the post. Try to avoid comments such as “I agree with” “I disagree with,” “I believe,” or “I feel” *unless* reasons are given explaining why you agree or disagree. Philosophy is based on rational discourse rather than feelings of likes or dislikes. *Do not* state your religious beliefs *unless* you are providing rational or empirical evidence or support for your views.
3. **Threaded Messages:** If your comment is in relation to another post, click on the blue hyperlink “Reply” just above the message you are commenting on. You can practice such threaded messages anonymously by not logging in and using the Testing Lounge Area at the top of the Philosophy Forum Board. (The Captcha’s, whereby you type a distorted word, are to prevent Spam Bots from entering the site.)
4. **How to Copy and Paste:** You can “copy and paste” your message into the “Message Body” area if you want to compose it separately in a word processing program or text editor. With your mouse, highlight the text in your word processing program, and for the *Copy*, press the Control Key and the letter “C” at the same time. For the *Paste*, click the mouse anywhere in the Message Body area, and press the Control Key and the letter “V” at the same time.

5. **Late Posts or Working Ahead:** No credit is given for posts on readings from past or for future weeks since the value of posting is for class discussion and understanding of current topics rather than based on already considered or topics yet to be assigned. Much of the learning from the on-line course comes through the discussion with class members. If students were to work through the readings at different times, the current discussion topics would be disparate and the depth of discussion would be less insightful. You are free to read ahead so long as discussion comments and tests are completed in accordance with the course assignment schedule. The readings listed in the assignment schedule are the *minimum* number of readings for this course; you are encouraged to consult as many of the recommended links and sources listed in the course notes and tutorials as is necessary for clear understanding.

Posting twice a week is not a guarantee that you will receive full credit for posting. Note that your post must have *critical content* of some kind—even if your post is to ask for help in understanding a philosopher or reading. See the *Section* “Philosophy Forum” in 3.11 for additional information about Message Board posts.

3.5 Assignment of Grades

Your final course grade is assigned according to your final average as described above in *Section* 3.1. The number of hours advised to study given below is usually an accurate guide to how well you will do in this class. If you study only before tests or try to complete tests without prior reading, your doing well in the course is unlikely. Many students assume they can do well in philosophy without careful reading because they have been able to do so in other high school or college classes. Since these students have become habituated to passing courses without much study, they are often alarmed to discover our philosophy course is substantially different from what they have expected. As stated above, our Web course puts a substantial burden on you to take charge of your own learning.

- A** (above 90 points) reflects approximately one hour study per day; a great deal of time, thought, and effort; and mastery of the subject.
- B** (80 or above but below 90 points) reflects approximately one-half hours study per day above average time, thought and effort; and superior achievement.
- C** (70 or above but below 80 points) reflects approximately only several hours per week, average time, thought, and effort; and average achievement.
- D** (60 or above but below 70 points) reflects cramming for examinations; minimum time, thought, and effort; below college level work; a less than adequate grasp of the course content; and less than satisfactory achievement.
- F** (below 60) reflects little or no understanding of course content and unsatisfactory achievement.

FA reflects few posts or tests submitted.

INC can only be given in cases of sudden illness or other emergency situation. To be considered for an INC, email the instructor prior to the final test.

* If, at the end of the semester, the mitigating circumstances of substantial hardship caused you to receive low grades, you may petition for withdrawal or retroactive withdrawal from the course. Talk to your adviser for information about this option.

3.6 Grades Online

You may access your grades online at any time on the Philosophy Server (not Lander Blackboard) with a username and password (not your Blackboard username and password) as described here.

Username: Your username for the course is the first letter of your first name followed by your *complete* last name in lowercase letters and without spaces. For example “Lauren Bouchett Satterfield” would have the login username of “lsatterfield” with no limitation of number of letters (as in some email programs).

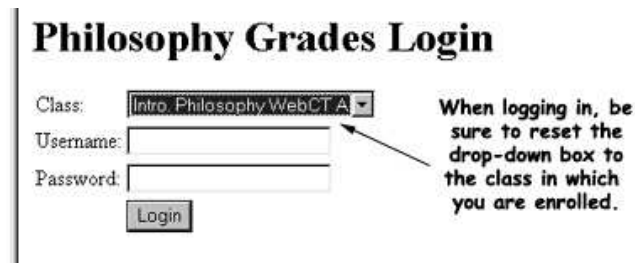
Password: Your password is your Lander L-number (without hyphen). Type a capital L followed by eight digits: *e.g.*, **Lxxxxxxxx**.



Figure 1: Where to Find Grades Online

Where to Log In: From the Philosophy Homepage click on the yellow “Introduction to Philosophy” link under the gray heading entitled “Class Grades” as in *Figure 1*.

1. Choose your class from the descriptions in the drop-down box. If you log in incorrectly, be sure to re-select your class from the drop-down box because an incorrect login might re-set the class to a default philosophy course. See *Figure 2*.
2. Enter your username *exactly* as described above.



Philosophy Grades Login

Class:

Username:

Password:

When logging in, be sure to reset the drop-down box to the class in which you are enrolled.

Figure 2: How to Log in for Grades

3. The login process is case-sensitive—be sure to use lowercase letters for your username and a capital “L” in your L-number password. If you obtain the result of “bad login,” check to see if the Caps Lock key is on, or you have confused the letter “l” with the number “1” or with the capital letter “L.” Occasionally, the number “0” is can confused with the capital letter “O.”

3.7 How to Save with a .doc Extension

If you word process with StarOffice®, OpenOffice (Sun Microsystems, LGPL), WordPerfect®, or a word processing program other than Microsoft® Word™ 2003, save your document with a `doc` (or `rtf` or `txt`) file extension. With Microsoft® Word™ 2007 the `docx` extension also must be changed to a `doc` format.

To do so, when the document is finished and ready to save, on the menu bar near the top of the page in your work processing program, click on “File.” When the drop-down menu appears, click on “Save As.” Next click on the down-triangle next to “File Type,” and click on any one of the following:

1. Microsoft Word’s proprietary extension (`.doc`) (preferred)
2. Generic Rich Text Format (`.rtf`)
3. Generic Text Format (`.txt`)

The `doc` file extension is preferred. The screenshot in *Figure 3* illustrates the process in OpenOffice.

3.8 Online Quizzes

Online quizzes are provided as study aids only and may be used for self-testing. They are entirely optional and form no part of your grade in this course. Practicing with the online quizzes is especially important to test your understanding

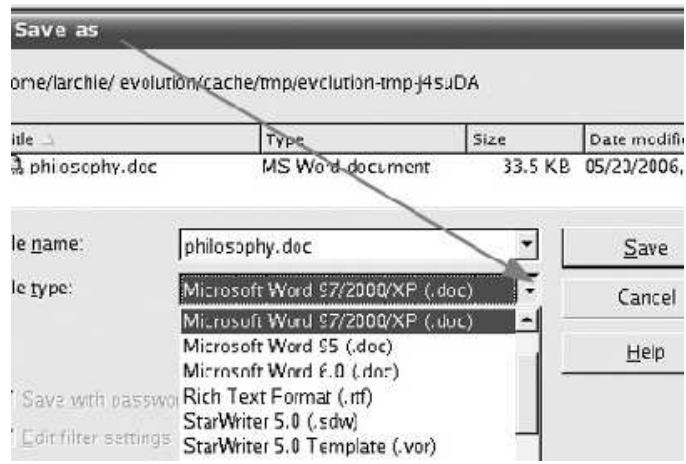


Figure 3: Saving a Document with a doc Extension in OpenOffice

of the important concepts before writing essays for the take-home tests.

3.9 Email Accounts

As a Lander student, you will need an email account, and you are encouraged to use your Lander email account assigned to you at registration. Information on your Lander email account is available at

http://www.lander.edu/its/students/student_email.html .

Your email account information is listed under the “My Profile” section in Bearcat Web. Your default password should be your birth date in as **yyymm-mdd**, (*i.e.*, June 10, 1987 = 19870610).

The Office of Computing Services has set up a server whereby you can check your email on the following Web page:

<http://mailbox.lander.edu>

Instructions for configuring your mail client such as Microsoft® Outlook® or Outlook Express® are described at

http://www.lander.edu/its/students/student_email.html

If you are on campus and you need further help with Lander email, you may obtain help from Lander’s ITS (Lander’s Information Technology Services) or

from the Computer Labs in Jackson Library or Laura Lander Hall.

When you use email, please observe the following guidelines:

1. Include a clear and precise subject-line. When the subject box is left blank or when the subject is not specific enough (as in such subjects as “test,” “reply” “problem,” or “question”), the message is sometimes rejected by the proposed receiver’s SPAM filter or the recipient.
2. When responding to a previous message, type your subject-line with a “Re:” before the subject given in the subject-line of the previous message. A simpler way to respond to a previous message is by clicking “Reply” in your email client; this click will automatically set the subject-line of your email so that your message is part of the appropriate message thread.
3. *Important:* Include your name, class, and section in the message body even though your email address may be in the “From” line in the message header. I normally do not reply to anonymous email, and I do not confidentially reply to email sent from a different account than that held by the student, for example email sent from accounts of friends or relatives.
4. Do not use all capital letters, as this is the Internet convention for screaming or angry content.
5. A good short summary of professional practice for email is provided by *Emailreplies.com*:

<http://www.emailreplies.com/>

and is well worth study-especially for graduating seniors first entering the marketplace.

3.10 Blackboard Discussion Board

The Blackboard Discussion Board is *not* used in this class. Instead, we will be using the Philosophy Forum on the Philosophy Server at

<http://philosophy.lander.edu/cgi-bin/mwf/forum.pl>

for which you will need to register as described below.

3.11 Philosophy Forum

The Philosophy Forum is used in our online class for the posting of questions of any kind, reading comments, and replies to comments. The minimum number of comments posted is two comments per week, although more comments

are evidence of student involvement in the course. Only comments analyzing some part of the reading selections count toward your “Reading Posts” grade as discussed above in *Section 3.5 Evaluation* and *Section 3.4 Reading Posts and Comments* above.

The Philosophy Forum are an important part of obtaining help in real time from your classmates and from your instructor. You are encouraged to post questions, problems, or answers on any topic relating to the course policies, procedures, or homework of our philosophy class. Your post is placed directly on the Philosophy Web and can be immediately accessed by anyone in the world. The Philosophy Forum is a good place to obtain a pre-evaluation of your philosophy reading questions or to seek answers to questions at the beginnings of the readings.

The purpose of the Philosophy Forum is to discuss the daily class activities of our philosophy course: reading posts, comments, homework questions, homework answers, housekeeping matters, class procedures, assignments, test dates, and class policies.

Signing up for the Philosophy Forum is a completely separate procedure from Blackboard and is explained here.

1. On the Philosophy Homepage on the Web at <http://philosophy.lander.edu/> (notice that there is no “www” in this URI or Web address), click on the “Philosophy Forum” link.
2. From the Philosophy Forum page, click on the “Register” tab at the top of the page.
3. Fill in a username of your own choosing and your email address—taking care to remember the username you have chosen. In a few moments, a password will be sent to your email address. If you cannot find the email from the Philosophy Forum in your Inbox, check to see if the message arrived in the Bulk Mail Folder in your email program. See *Figure 4* for a screenshot of the Register Page.
4. Click on the “Register” button, and a login page will load. Log in with your chosen username and the password you have just received *via* email. Be sure to take note of your password—perhaps, by saving or printing out the email message. Next, click the “Login” button. See *Figure 5*.

3.12 Troubleshooting!Philosophy Forum

Lost Password: If you lose or forget your password to the Philosophy Forum, click on the Login link on the upper-right of the Homepage. At the bottom of the Login page in a box labeled “Request Password.” Fill in your username in



Figure 4: How to Register for the Philosophy Forum

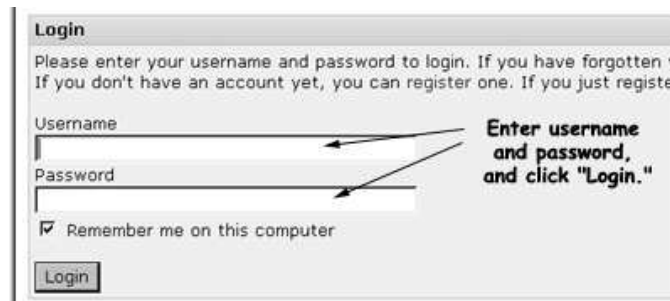


Figure 5: How to Login to Philosophy Forum

the username bar, and click the “Request” button. Your password will be sent to you *via* email.

Forgotten Username: If you have forgotten your username to the Philosophy Forum, click on the Login link on the upper-right of the Homepage. At the bottom of the Login page in a box labeled “Request Password,” fill in your account’s email address in the username bar, and click the “Request” button. Your username will be sent to you *via* your account’s email.

Forgotten Email Address: If you have forgotten your email address and you have posted to the Philosophy Forum at least once in the past, then find your message on the Philosophy Forum and click on your username. Your “Profile Page” will load, and your email address will be displayed, if you chose not to hide it when you first registered for the Philosophy Forum.

3.13 Profile Page

When you login to the Philosophy Forum for the first time, you must enter personal information on your Profile page. To accomplish this, log in to the Philosophy Forum and click on the “Option” link at the top of the page.

When the Profile page loads, you can change your password to a more easily remembered password if you wish to do so. Choose a simple easily remembered password, and record the password in your philosophy notebook or in the space provided below:

Username: _____
 Password: _____

Also, on this Profile page, be sure to enter your *real name* so that your posts can be credited. *Unless your real name is recorded here on the Profile Page, credit cannot be assigned to your posts since the recording program does not have your name to collate with your posts.* If you wish to hide your email address when you post, check the appropriate box on this page. I recommend but do not require that you do not hide your email address so that your instructor and other students can email you privately. If you do hide your email address, be sure to check your official Lander email account for class-related communications daily even if you do not normally use that email account. When finished entering the information you want, scroll *way down* to the bottom of the page and click on the “Change” button so your information will be saved.

After you post to the Philosophy Forum, if you click on your blue hyperlinked username or you click on “Options” at the top of the page in the Philosophy Forum program, you can find out how many times you have posted as well as find out about your other personal data. To do so, click “Info” on the line just below your username on the Profile page. Next, click on the “Posts” link for a list of all your messages.

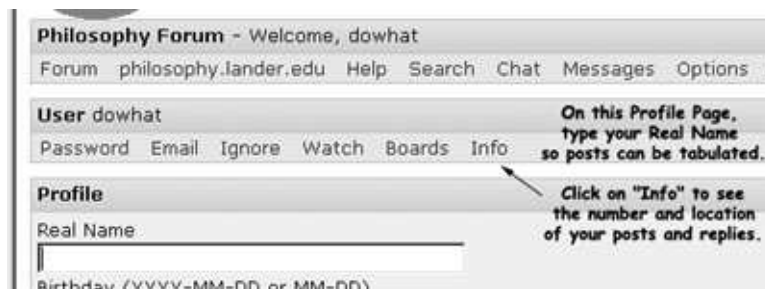


Figure 6: How to Find Your Posts

3.14 How to Post to the Board

1. From the homepage on the philosophy Website at

<http://philosophy.lander.edu>

(again, note there is no "www" in this URL,) click on the "Philosophy Forum" link toward the middle of the left-hand column.

2. When the "Philosophy Forum" page loads, click on the Philosophy Forum Board of interest. (In the screenshots presented here, the names of the Message Boards might not exactly match the current names on the board). The Philosophy Forum Message Boards for this class are under the heading: "Introduction to Philosophy Online Course."
3. (You need to log in to the Philosophy Forum in order to post comments, but you need not log in just to read the messages posted. If you work on a public computer, be sure to log off the Philosophy Forum in order to prevent the possibility of someone else posting to the Board under your name.)

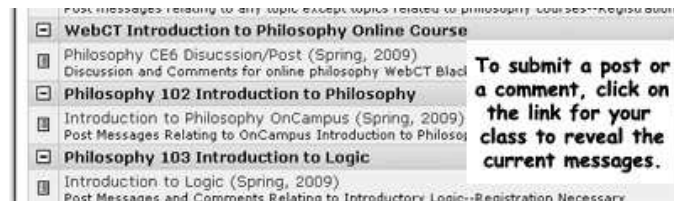


Figure 7: How to Post a Comment to the Philosophy Forum

4. If you wish to submit a comment, click on the blue hyperlink "CE6 Discussion/Post (SEMESTER)" under the black font "WebCT Introduction to Philosophy Online Course" heading. See *Figure 7* for a screenshot.



Figure 8: Reading Posts and Adding Topics

When the “CE6 Discussion/Post” page loads, click on the “Add Topic” link. See *Figures 8 and 9*.

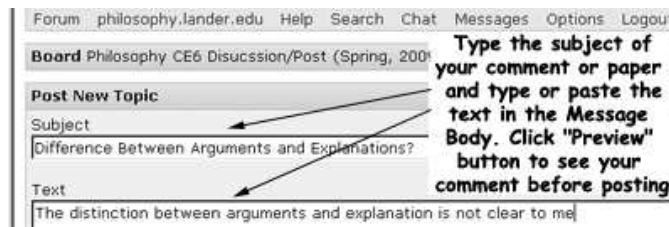


Figure 9: How to Submit a Comment

5. Type in the space provided the title of your comment in the “Subject” bar and the text of the comment in the “Message Body” area. Be sure to review information about comments and posts in *Section 3.4 Reading Posts and Comments* above.
6. Again, if you work on a public computer, be sure to log off the Philosophy Forum in order to prevent the possibility of someone else posting to the Board under your name.

3.15 Extra Credit

Other than some occasionally offered intriguing problems on tests, no other opportunities for extra credit are offered in this class. Subjects and problems for this course have been chosen on the basis that they are the best and most important introduction to beginning study of philosophy. “Extra Credit” problems are in addition to class requirements—not a substitute for, or a make-up of, missed class assignments.

3.16 Your Job

Our course is not difficult if you study daily and keep up with the assigned work.

A good place to see how to study in our course is the “Notes on How to Study” on the Web at

<http://philosophy.lander.edu/study-topics.html>.

- Follow a study schedule.
- Take notes on posted comments.
- Take notes on the important points of the assigned reading.
- Answer all study questions.

- Make extensive use of the online lectures, sample problems, quizzes, and tests.

3.17 My Job

We will find that philosophy is quite essential in all fields of endeavor.

- I will attempt to create the conditions under which you can exercise your native curiosity.
- Class material will be varied, and I will try to use interesting examples.
- I will show practical applications for all the philosophical methods employed.
- I will provide online handouts and Web-based instructions for additional problem-solving support.

If I do my job correctly, our philosophy course will be one of the *most valuable* in your university career.

3.18 Class Policies

The following policies are explicitly stated here because these policies help protect fairness of the course evaluation for the class as a whole. Some of these policies are generally assumed in most classes at Lander University.

Make-Up Policy: Make-up tests are provided for persons who cannot complete the test on time due to a verifiable emergency and a written excuse provided by an independent party. Contact your instructor as soon as possible if you are unable to complete a scheduled test in time.

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to do their own work in this course. To use another writer's or speaker's ideas without giving credit by means of standard documentation is plagiarism. All cases of academic dishonesty on tests or posts will be handled in accordance with the Academic Honor Code as presented in the *Lander University Student Handbook*.

Important This class policy includes the instructor's notes and tutorials on the Web. If you plagiarize from any work including the online notes, you will receive a "0" for your answer. Almost every semester since this online course has been taught, some students do not pass this course because they copy work from the online notes or from the Internet without proper citation. Also, please do not attempt to submit tests completed after the due date and claim the email and test attachment were delayed or "got lost in hyperspace." Computer and server logs clearly show dates documents are processed, saved and email sent. Any such academic dishonesty will result in a "0" assigned to the work and possible failure in

the course. *Please note that in fairness for all students, I routinely access the meta-data on submitted documents, check each paper for plagiarism with software, and access the Philosophy Server logs for times and dates of student access.*

Learning and Physical Disability If you have now or develop during this semester a physical or a learning disability and you want your instructors to make reasonable accommodations, you must contact the Student Wellness Center nurse and provide her with appropriate documentation. Once she is aware of your disability, she will inform all of your instructors each semester you attend Lander University unless you ask her in writing not to do so.

Phone: +1 864 388 8885

E-mail: studentwellness@lander.edu

The Academic Success Center offers testing accommodations for students with disability who need extra time as well as a quiet room for testing during the year. Please notify Gay Coleman, Learning Center 340, telephone +1 864 388 8317 and your instructor prior to the test date.

Lander University's Cell Phone Policy: Cell Phones are to be turned off before entering the class (lab, clinical, etc) and shall remain off for the duration of the class. If there is an extenuating circumstance which requires the cell phone to be on during a class, the student must obtain permission prior to the class from the instructor to leave the phone on vibrate. Cell phones are not to be visible or used at any time, especially not during quizzes or exams. Each instructor reserves the right to further restrict use of cell phones in class and to determine the consequences of not following this policy. (I realize the pointlessness of a cell phone policy for an online class, but Lander University *requires* this statement in all syllabi!)

Closing of the University: If hazardous weather conditions or any other state of emergency necessitate University closing, the information will be available from the Lander automated information system (telephone +1 864 388 8400) or local radio and TV stations. Usually, however, the Internet and Lander's Web Server are available during inclement weather or other emergency. If Lander's Web service is down, the Philosophy Server will also be down. If access to the Lander domain is not possible immediately prior to a due date for a test or a post, additional time will be allowed for the completion of that assignment.

Also, these Websites will provide information in case of cancellations, delay of classes, or the closing of the university:

Lander University: <http://www.lander.edu>

State Office of Human Resources:

<http://ohr.sc.gov/OHR/OHR-index.phtm>

Appendices

A Test Review Sheets

A.1 Test 1: Philosophy and the Meaning of Life

Important Concepts: be able to characterize and give examples.

philosophy	sophist
<i>ad ignorantiam</i>	philosophic mind
practical mind	metaphysics
epistemology	axiology
aesthetics	ethics
synoptic	not-Self
enlargement of self	“arrest of life”
decoy of life	irrational knowledge
existentialism	undermine
the Absurd	eluding

Important Essays : be able to explain in depth

1. What is philosophy?
2. What is the Socratic Paradox and what is paradoxical about it?
3. What is Socrates' argument that death is a good? Why doesn't Socrates believe in hell?
4. According to Russell, what are the main goals of philosophy?
5. Characterize Tolstoy's use of faith and the characteristics he ascribes to faith.
6. According to Camus, how can one find the meaning of life? What is the point of the myth of Sisyphus?

Important Distinctions: Be able to list differences and give examples.

1. faith and reason
2. practical and philosophic mind
3. science and philosophy
4. philosophy and religion
5. epistemology, metaphysics, and axiology

A.2 Test 2: The Philosophy of Religion

Important Concepts: be able to characterize and give examples.

a priori

ontological
 existential import
 philosophy of religion
 efficient cause
 Great Chain of Being
 teleology
 prescriptive law
 problem of evil

a posteriori

cosmological
 BTWNGCBC
 natural theology
 Occam's Razor
 polar concepts
 rational decision theory
 descriptive law
 nonmoral evil

Important Essays: be able to explain in detail and give possible objections.

1. Anselm's Ontological Argument with objections
2. Aquinas' Argument From Motion (Change) with objections
3. Aquinas' Argument From (Efficient) Cause with objections
4. Aquinas' Argument From Necessity with objections
5. Aquinas' Argument From Gradation (Great Chain of Being) with objections
6. Aquinas' Argument From Governance (Teleological Argument) with objections
7. Paley's Watch Argument with objections
8. Pascal's Wager with objections
9. Dostoevsky's and Hick's Statements and Answers to the Problem of Evil

Important Distinctions: be able to list differences and give examples.

1. *a priori* and *a posteriori* statements
2. material, efficient, formal, and final causes
3. potentiality and actuality
4. prescriptive and descriptive law
5. design and chance
6. moral evil and nonmoral evil

A.3 Test 3: Ethics and Philosophical Ethics

Important Concepts: be able to characterize and give examples.

determinism (hard)	determinism (soft)
predeterminism	fatalism
predestination	indeterminism
chance	free will
utilitarianism	ethical relativism
ethical absolutism	hedonistic calculus
selfishness	self-interest
Ring of Gyges	other-regarding motives
altruism	existence
essence	existentialism
psychological egoism	ethical egoism
master morality	slave morality

Important Essays: be able to explicate the following questions.

1. What is the argument from moral progress (against ethical relativism)?
2. What is the linguistic refutation of psychological egoism? How does it refute the Myth of the Ring of Gyges.
3. Why can't ethical egoism be universalized?
4. How are we "condemned to be free"?
5. What are the elements of a significant life according to James?

Important Distinctions: be able to list differences and give examples.

1. selfishness and self-interest
2. psychological relativism and ethical relativism
3. essence and existence
4. anguish, forlornness, and despair

B Selected Bibliography

B.1 Recommended Books and Links

Excellent sources of additional help for this online course are listed by description at

<http://philosophy.lander.edu/lander/resources.html>

The above URL links to the very best philosophy sources on the Internet and can be relied upon for authoritative information.

The following works are recommended as additional sources. They are available in the stacks of the Larry A. Jackson Library and in many other local libraries.

Audi, Robert. *Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*. New York: Cambridge, 1999. B41 .C35 1999

Baldwin, James Mark. *Dictionary of Philosophy and Psychology*. 3 vols. Gloucester, Mass: P. Smith, 1960. B41 .B3 1960

Edwards, Paul, ed. *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. 8 vols. New York: Macmillan, 1967. B41 .E5

Flew, Antony, ed. *A Dictionary of Philosophy*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1979. B41 .F63 1979

Lacy, A. R. *A Dictionary of Philosophy*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976. B41 .L32 1976

Magill, Frank N., ed. *Masterpieces of World Philosophy in Summary Form*. London: George Allen, 1963. B75 .M37 1990

O'Connor, D., ed. *A Critical History of Western Philosophy*. Glencoe: Free Press, 1964. B72 .O2

Runes, Dagobert D. *Dictionary of Philosophy*. Totowa, N.J.: Littlefield, Adams & Co., 1976. B41 .R8 1976

Salfulin, Murad and Richard R. Dixon. *Dictionary of Philosophy*. New York: International Publishers, 1984. B41 .F5513 1984

Urmson, J. O., ed. *Concise Encyclopedia of Western Philosophy and Philosophers*. New York: Hawthorne, 1960. B41 .U7

Excellent online sources for this course:

The Bloomsbury Research Centre is a free on-line database containing 17,000 cross-referenced entries linked and fully indexed. The Centre's search engine selects a wide range of subjects by title or by topic including areas of literature, art, myth, human thought, and quotations. The reference works include biographical quotations, thematic quotations, dictionary of English literature, good word guide, guide to art, guide to human thought, myth, and thesaurus. The entries published are selected from Bloomsbury Reference books.

<http://www.bloomsbury.com/ARC/>

Dictionary of the History of Ideas : Studies of Selected Pivotal Ideas, edited by Philip P. Wiener, was published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, in 1973-74. Now out of print, the Dictionary is published online with the help of Scribner's and the Electric Text Center at the University of Virginia. The dictionary includes articles on the historical development of a broad spectrum of ideas in philosophy, religion, politics, literature, and the biological, physical, and social sciences.

<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/DicHist/dict.html>

Dictionary of Philosophy and Psychology by James Mark Baldwin is a developing resource, first published in 1901, including terms from ethics, aesthetics, logic, philosophy of religion, mental pathology, anthropology, biology, neurology, physiology, economics, political and social philosophy, philology, physical science, and education. Entries A–O are completed.

<http://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Baldwin/Dictionary/>

Dictionary of Philosophy of Mind is edited by Chris Eliasmith and is a free resource for the major concepts in the philosophy of mind. The dictionary has a policy of blind peer review for all submissions, and is sponsored by The Philosophy, Neuroscience, and Psychology Program at Washington University in St. Louis. The definitions provided offer valuable help for key definitions for test review and philosophy papers.

<http://philosophy.uwaterloo.ca/MindDict/>

EpistemeLinks.com is one of the oldest and most thorough sites on the Internet having comprehensive links for many different interests in philosophy including philosophers, philosophic subjects, reference works, blogs, philosophy discussion lists, etexts, and bibliographies. The site created by Thomas Ryan Stone is now a nonprofit organization with a board of directors. EpistemeLinks includes about 20,000 well-categorized links to all areas of philosophy a highly recommended and excellent place to find

sources or start your investigations.

<http://www.epistemelinks.com/>

Philosophy Eserver.org This collection of e-texts contains philosophic classics and links to scholarly philosophic organizations. The English Server has other collections in addition, however, in critical theory, history, and in eighteenth century studies, which also address philosophical interests and concerns. The EServer, founded in 1990 at Carnegie Mellon as the English Server, is now based at Iowa State University.

<http://philosophy.eserver.org/>

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy : The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy (subtitled "A Field Guide to the Nomenclature of Philosophy") consists of regularly updated original articles by fifteen editors, one hundred academic specialists, and technical advisors. The articles are authoritative, peer-reviewed, and available for personal and classroom use. The general editors are James Fieser and Bradley Dowden. The site is most useful for students in obtaining secondary source information on the key terms and personages of philosophy. The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy can also be recommended for obtaining an overview of the problems of philosophy for background readings for lectures and papers. In general, the articles are well researched and are accessible by undergraduates. The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, its main competitor, is perhaps better suited for more advanced work.

<http://www.iep.utm.edu/>

The Internet Philosopher is a tutorial on the use of the Internet for studying philosophy. The tutorial covers the prominent Internet sites, how to search, what to trust, and how to maximize information skills. Other features include printer friendly pages, glossary, and a link basket, teaching resources, workbook, slide presentation, handouts, and downloadable poster. The site is authored by Stig Hansen at the University of Leeds and is a tutorial designed for UK higher education by the RDN Virtual Training Suite. For students of philosophy, the Internet Philosopher is most helpful at the beginning of the semester since the visitor quickly learns how to access some of the most useful and authoritative sites on the Internet.

<http://www.vts.intute.ac.uk/he/tutorial/philosophy>

The Ism Book : Self-described as "an intellectual "field guide" that provides brief definitions of theories, doctrines, movements, and approaches in philosophy, religion, politics, science, the arts, and related disciplines. It was

originally written in 1990 and was first posted on the web in March 1996. In 2005 it was totally revised and nowadays it is continuously updated on the web by Peter Saint-Andre, who has placed it in the public domain.” As a guide to the terminology of philosophy including some of the ordinary language meanings of the central terms, the list of terms is interlinked and is especially useful in reviewing for examinations or for obtaining definitions of key terms for philosophy papers.

<http://www.ismbook.com/>

DiText Meta-Encyclopedia of Philosophy is a dynamic resource, by Andrew Chrucky, accessing the following sources: Dagobert D. Runes (ed.), *Dictionary of Philosophy*, 1942, *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, *Dictionary of the Philosophy of Mind*, *The Ism Book*, *The Catholic Encyclopedia* (1913), and *A Dictionary of Philosophical Terms and Names*.

<http://www.ditext.com/encyc/frame.html>

The Orb: Online Reference Book for Medieval Studies : The Orb—the online reference book for medieval studies includes an encyclopedia, medieval text, links to related sites, and resources for teacher and beginning students. Religion, history, art, law, literature, magic, music, philosophy, and science of the Medieval Period are all covered. A guide to online studies of the Middle Ages is also of note.

<http://www.the-orb.net/>

The Philosophers Magazine Online has a sampling of online articles with popular and introductory philosophical topics. Links to international newspaper articles with philosophical content are provided, but access to full content requires subscription. The editors are Jeremy Stangroom and Julian Baggini.

<http://www.philosophersnet.com/>

Social Science Information Gateway : The World Philosophy Information Gateway is an extensive set of links rivaled only by EpistemeLinks.com, although the later site is somewhat better organized. The Internet resources include bibliography, books, journals, mailing lists, news, reference materials, and resource guides. The site includes many of the sub-subjects of philosophy and is fairly comprehensive. The Philosophy Information Gateway is part of the Social Science Information Gateway (SOSIG), in turn part of the UK Resource Discovery Network. Visitors can sign up for special accounts with privileges for utilizing the site. Also available are related extensive links for Philosophy Resources (Europe), and Philosophy

Resources (UK).

<http://www.intute.ac.uk/socialsciences/>

The Philosophy Pages includes a dictionary of philosophical terms and names, a survey of the history of Western philosophy, a timeline for key figures, discussion of several major philosophers, a summary treatment of the elementary principles of logic, study guide for students of philosophy, and links to other philosophy sites on the Internet. The site is developed by a former professor of Newberry College in South Carolina, is widely cited, and the information is brief, but reliable.

<http://www.philosophypages.com/>

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy is a continuously updated reference work and is a publishing project of the Metaphysics Research Lab at the Center for the Study of Language and Information (CSLI) at Stanford University. The General editor of the Stanford Encyclopedia is Edward N. Zalta. Authors of subject entries are well-known scholars in their fields; even so, the subjects discussed are authoritative and well balanced. The Encyclopedia is the most scholarly general source for philosophy on the Internet and is essential as a starting point and background research for philosophy term papers.

<http://plato.stanford.edu/>

Wikipedia is an online free encyclopedia for all subjects, not just philosophy, is licensed under the Gnu Free Documentation License and contains a half-million articles maintained and edited by Wiki according to the philosophy of the free software movement. The project was founded by Jimmy Wales, and its strengths are its decentralization, peer reviews and thousands of contributors from all over the world. Articles on philosophical topics are generally reliable and are especially useful in their breadth and variety. The site is especially recommended for an accessible introduction and survey of philosophical topics for review. Students should be wary of many of the topics in logic.

<http://www.wikipedia.org/>

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